The Story of a Warrior Father and a Wandering Son

Islamic Stories - Volume 54

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Chapter 1: The Trial of Kinship and Faith

A Son in Opposition: Prelude to the Battle

Before embracing Islam, ʿAbd al-Raḥmān, the son of Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq (may Allāh be pleased with both), stood opposed to his father's faith. During the momentous Battle of Badr, he was aligned with the ranks of the disbelievers. In the thick of combat, a dramatic confrontation nearly unfolded: father and son found themselves face to face on the battlefield.

As swords clashed and dust rose from the sacred battleground, ʿAbd al-Raḥmān, recognising his father amidst the chaos, felt the surge of paternal affection within him. Moved by this emotion, he deliberately turned his course aside, refraining from striking a blow that might harm his father.

Post-War Reflections: A Conversation Rekindled

In later years, when ʿAbd al-Raḥmān had entered the fold of Islam, he joined the noble circle of the Companions of the Prophet Muḥammad (peace and blessings be upon him). On one such occasion, the revered gathering became absorbed in recalling the events of Badr. It was then that ʿAbd al-Raḥmān mentioned the incident to his illustrious father, Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq (may Allāh be pleased with him), recounting how he had recognised him on the battlefield but had chosen to spare him due to paternal love.

A Father's Devotion to Faith:

ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn Abī Bakr:

"O my father, at Badr I saw you before me, but love for you stirred in my heart, and I turned my face away."

Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq:

"Had you come within my reach, I would not have turned away. In the face of devotion to Allāh, I would not have regarded paternal affection, for a Muslim lives to propagate the truth—not to fear falsehood or to become entangled in personal ties."

A Legacy of Principle: Loyalty to Truth

This exchange, both tender and profound, exemplifies the unwavering commitment of Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq (may Allāh be pleased with him) to his faith and mission. In the testing grounds of war and within the intimate bonds of family, his dedication to truth stood resolute. Such moments remain eternally etched in the collective memory of Islamic history—testaments to the virtue of prioritising faith over all else.